

plant has other points of interest. Throughout its continuous range in British America and the northern states *P. cilinode* has the stems always puberulent and the lower surfaces of the leaves densely pilose; but the Spruce Knob plant has its stems and leaves quite glabrous, or the leaves rarely with a very sparse pubescence on the veins beneath. The fruiting calyx is slightly shorter than is common in the northern typical form, 3.5–4 mm. long; in the northern plant ordinarily 4–5 mm. long. And the achenes of the Spruce Knob plant are broadly trigonous-obovoid or -subglobose and scarcely 3 mm. long; in the northern pubescent plant usually more ellipsoid and from 3–4 mm. long.

These characters, if constant, would indicate that the Spruce Knob plant is specifically distinct; but an examination of 86 sheets of true *Polygonum cilinode* shows that the pubescent plant sometimes has the calyx and the achene quite as short and plump as in the West Virginian material. It seems wisest, then, to designate the southern plant as

POLYGONUM CILINODE Michx., var. **laevigatum**, n. var., caule glabro; foliis glabris vel subtus sparse pilosis: achaeniis late trigonis obovoideis vel -subglobosis vix 3 mm. longis — WEST VIRGINIA: Spruce Knob, 14 September, 1904, *J. M. Greenman*, no. 346 (TYPE in Gray Herb.).— M. L. FERNALD, Gray Herbarium.

AN UNWELCOME INVADER.— Another species of the weedy annual brome grasses has entered the Manual region. This is *Bromus villosus* Forsk. (*B. maximus* Desf.) which has appeared along the railway at College Park, Maryland. Specimens were brought to the National Herbarium by Mr. S. D. Gray in early June, and more sent later by Professor J. B. S. Norton. This is one of the group of Mediterranean species that today cover the overgrazed slopes and valleys of southern California, often in favorable situations growing as thickly as a field of grain. *Bromus villosus* and its variety *Gussonei* Aschers. & Graebn. like their allies, *B. madritensis* L. and *B. rubens* L., are injurious to grazing animals, the long scabrous awns of the ripened florets, scattered by the wind over the pastures, penetrating the tender parts of the nose and mouth, often causing sores. If this species spreads as rapidly in the eastern states as has its comparatively inoffensive little relative *B. tectorum* it will probably soon be one of our worst annual weeds.— AGNES CHASE, Department of Agriculture.